In the Claims

1-55. (Cancelled)

56. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:

receiving a first frame and a second frame, wherein

said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames; and

relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations of [[a]]

said first frame to a second set of byte locations of [[a]] **said** second frame.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise said first frame and said second frame; and

cross-connecting said time slots.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising:

selecting at least one of said time slots.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;

sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and

outputting said outgoing time slots.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising:

extracting said network management information; and

routing said network management information.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60, wherein said cross-connect

comprises:

selecting at least one of said time slots.

Application No.: 09/727,905

62.   (**Currently Amended**) An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a first frame and a second frame, wherein

said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames; and

means for relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations

of [[a]] **said** first frame to a second set of byte locations of [[a]] **said** second

frame.

63.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise said first frame and said second frame; and

means for cross-connecting said time slots.

64.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:

means for selecting at least one of said time slots.

65.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, further comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;

means for sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

means for randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers;

and

means for outputting said outgoing time slots.

66.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:

means for extracting said network management information; and

means for routing said network management information.

67.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein said cross-connect

comprises:

means for selecting at least one of said time slots.

68.   (**Currently Amended**) A computer program product comprising:

a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to receive a first

frame and a second frame, wherein

said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to relocate

network management information from a first set of byte locations of [[a]] **said**

first frame to a second set of byte locations of [[a]] **said** second frame; and

computer readable **storage** media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in

said computer readable **storage** media.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 68, further

comprising:

a third set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to receive a

plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise said first frame and said second frame; and

a fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to cross-

connect said time slots.

70. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, further

comprising:

a fifth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at

least one of said time slots.

71. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 70, further

comprising:

a sixth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to receive a

plurality of incoming time slots;

a seventh set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to

sequentially write said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;

a eighth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to randomly

read a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and

an ninth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to output

said outgoing time slots.

72.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, further

comprising:

a fifth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to extract said

network management information; and

a sixth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select at

least one of said time slots.